

RESOLUTION NO. 20120802-074

WHEREAS, on August 8, 1992, 64 percent of Austin voters cast their ballot in favor of the citizen initiated Save Our Springs, or "SOS," ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs ordinance was drafted and petitioned onto the ballot as a citizen-initiated ordinance as provided by the Austin City Charter by the Save Our Springs Coalition; and

WHEREAS, local citizen leaders from the Austin Sierra Club, Citizen Action, Clean Water Action, Hill Country Foundation, Save Barton Creek Association, Travis Audubon Society, and We Care Austin formed and served on the Save Our Springs Coalition Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, the campaign to pass the Save Our Springs ordinance was supported by thousands of volunteers and contributors; by Austin Hispanic leaders organized as "Making Austin Stronger," or "MAS;" and by more than 200 Austin business leaders and professionals organized as Austin Business Leaders for the Environment, or "ABLE"; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs campaign and overwhelming approval by Austin voters established the principle that protecting Barton Springs and the natural heritage of Austin is important to sustaining a healthy and prosperous economy; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs ordinance was upheld by the Texas Supreme Court as a valid municipal ordinance and continues in effect today; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council and community have worked together to achieve the goals of the Save Our Springs ordinance by, among other efforts, protecting more than 15,000 acres of Barton Springs watershed land by purchase of land and conservation easements and directing urban development to other “desired development” areas of our city; and

WHEREAS, while much progress has been made to protect Barton Springs and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer, the quality and quantity of Barton Springs flows have been diminished by urban and suburban development in southern Travis and northern Hays counties over the last twenty years, and much work remains to be done to ensure that Barton Springs and the Aquifer are protected into the future; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council hereby declares August 8, 2012 as Save Our Springs Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the passage of SOS, the City Council directs the City Manager to implement a one-time free swim day at Barton Springs Pool on August 8, 2012 and waives the pool entry fee for people visiting Barton Springs Pool on that day.

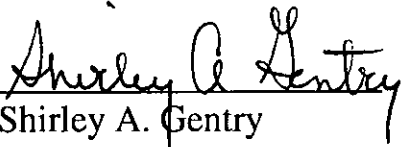
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council hereby expresses its renewed commitment to working with the residents of Austin and others to protect Barton Springs and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer from pollution and excessive

groundwater pumping so that these precious resources remain healthy and viable for future generations.

ADOPTED: August 2, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk